











THE TWO GEN-  
TLEMEN OF  
VERONA : *By*  
*WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE* \* \* \* \*



BLISS, SANDS & CO.  
LONDON

*MDCCCXCVIII.*



# THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA.

---

## DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

DUKE OF MILAN, *Father to Silvia*  
VALENTINE, } *the two Gentlemen*  
PROTEUS, }  
ANTONIO, *Father to Proteus*  
THURIO, *a foolish Rival to Valentine*  
EGLAMOUR, *Agent for Silvia in her escape*  
SPEED, *a clownish Servant to Valentine*  
LAUNCE, *the like to Proteus*  
PANTILINO, *Servant to Antonio*  
*Host, where Julia lodges*  
*Outlaws, with Valentine*

JULIA, *beloved of Proteus*  
SILVIA, *beloved of Valentine*  
LUCETTA, *Waiting-woman to Julia*

• *Servants, Musicians*

SCENE — *Sometimes in Verona, sometimes in  
Milan, and on the frontiers of Mantua*

## ACT I

SCENE I. *Verona an open Place.*

*Enter VALENTINE and PROTEUS*

*Val.* Cease to persuade, my loving Proteus:  
Home-keeping youth have ever homely wits  
Were't not affection chains thy tender days  
To the sweet glances of thy honour'd love,  
I rather would entreat thy company  
To see the wonders of the world abroad,  
Than, living dully sluggardized at home,  
Wear out thy youth with shapeless idleness.



8 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT I.

But since thou lovest, love still and thrive therein,

Even as I would when I to love begin.

*Pro* Wilt thou be gone? Sweet Valentine, adieu!

Think on thy Proteus, when thou haply seest

Some rare noteworthy object in thy travel:

Wish me partaker in thy happiness

When thou dost meet good hap; and in thy danger,

If ever danger do environ thee,

Commend thy grievance to my holy prayers,

For I will be thy headman, Valentine.

*Val* And on a love-book pray for my success?

*Pro* Upon some book I love I'll pray for thee

*Val* That's on some shallow story of deep love

How young Leander cross'd the Hellespont.

*Pro* That's a deep story of a deeper love,

For he was more than over shoes in love

*Val* 'Tis true, for you are over boots in love,

And yet you never swum the Hellespont.

*Pro* Over the boots? nay, give me not the boots

*Val* No, I will not, for it boots thee not.

*Pro* What?

*Val* To be in love, where scorn is bought with groans,

Coy looks with heart-sore sighs; one fading moment's mirth

With twenty watchful, weary, tedious nights:

If haply won, perhaps a hapless gain;

If lost, why then a grievous labour won  
However, but a folly bought with wit,  
Or else a wit by folly vanquished

*Pro* So, by your circumstance, you call me fool

*Val* So, by your circumstance, I fear you'll  
prove.

*Pro* 'Tis love you cavil at. I am not Love

*Val* Love is your master, for he masters you ;  
And he that is so yoked by a fool,  
Methinks, should not be chronick'd for wise

*Pro* Yet writers say, as in the sweetest bud  
The eating canker dwells, so eating love  
Inhabits in the finest wit of all

*Val* And writers say, as the most forward bud  
Is eaten by the canker ere it blow,  
Even so by love the young and tender wit  
Is turn'd to folly, blasting in the bud,  
Losing his verdure even in the prime,  
And all the fair effects of future hopes.  
But wherefore waste I time to counsel thee  
That art a votary to fond desire ?

Once more, adieu ! my father at the road  
Expects my coming, there to see me shipp'd

*Pro* And thither will I bring thee, Valentine

*Val* Sweet Proteus, no, now let us take our  
leave.

To Milan let me hear from thee by letters  
Of thy success in love, and what news else  
Betideth here in absence of thy friend,  
And I likewise will visit thee with mine

*Pro* All happiness bechance to thee in Milan !

*Val* As much to you at home ! and so, fare-  
well.

xxiii.

[Exit  
b

10 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT I.

*Pro.* He after honour hunts, I after love :  
He leaves his friends to dignify them more ;  
I leave myself, my friends and all, for love.  
Thou, Julia, thou hast metamorphosed me ;  
Made me neglect my studies, lose my time,  
War with good counsel, set the world at nought ;  
Made wit with musing weak, heart sick with  
thought.

*Enter SPEED*

*Speed* Sir Proteus, save you ! Saw you my  
master ?

*Pro* But now he parted hence, to embark for  
Milan.

*Speed* Twenty to one then, he is shipp'd  
already,

And I have play'd the sheep in losing him \*.

*Pro* Indeed, a sheep doth very often stray,  
An if the shepherd be a while away.

*Speed* You conclude that my master is a  
shepherd then, and I a sheep ?

*Pro* I do.

*Speed* Why then my horns are his horns,  
whether I wake or sleep.

*Pro.* A silly answer, and fitting well a sheep.

*Speed* This proves me still a sheep.

*Pro* True, and thy master a shepherd.

*Speed* Nay, that I can deny by a circumstance.

*Pro* It shall go hard but I'll prove it by  
another.

*Speed.* The shepherd seeks the sheep, and not  
the sheep the shepherd, but I seek my master,  
and my master seeks not me : therefore I am no  
sheep.

*Pro* The sheep for fodder follow the shepherd, the shepherd for food follows not the sheep, thou for wages followest thy master, thy master for wages follows not thee therefore thou art a sheep.

*Speed*. Such another proof will make me cry 'baa'

*Pro* But, dost thou hear? gavest thou my letter to Julia?

*Speed*. Ay, sir I, a lost mutton, gave your letter to her, a laced mutton, and she, a laced mutton, gave me, a lost mutton, nothing for my labour.

*Pro* Here's too small a pasture for such store of muttons.

*Speed* If the ground be overcharged, you were best stick her

*Pro*. Nay, in that you are astray. 't were best pound you

*Speed*. Nay, sir, less than a pound shall serve me for carrying your letter.

*Pro* You mistake. I mean the pound,— a pinfold.

*Speed* From a pound to a pin? fold it over and over,  
'T is threefold too little for carrying a letter to your lover.

*Pro*. But what said she? [Speed nods.  
Did she nod?

*Speed*. Ay.

*Pro* Nod, Ay? why, that's noddy

*Speed*. You mistook, sir. I say she did nod, and you ask me if she did nod, and I say, Ay.

12 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT I

*Pro* And that set together is noddy.

*Speed* Now you have taken the pains to set it together, take it for your pains.

*Pro* No, no; you shall have it for bearing the letter

*Speed* Well, I perceive I must be fain to bear with you

*Pro* Why, sir, how do you bear with me?

*Speed* Marry, sir, the letter, very orderly; having nothing but the word 'noddy' for my pains

*Pro* Beshrew me, but you have a quick wit

*Speed* And yet it cannot overtake your slow purse

*Pro* Come, come, open the matter in brief. what said she?

*Speed* Open your purse, that the money and the matter may be both at once delivered.

*Pro* Well, sir, here is for your pains. What said she?

*Speed* Truly, sir, I think you'll hardly win her

*Pro* Why? Could'st thou perceive so much from her?

*Speed* Sir, I could perceive nothing at all from her, no, not so much as a ducat for delivering your letter and being so hard to me that brought your mind, I fear she'll prove as hard to you in telling your mind. Give her no token but stones, for she's as hard as steel.

*Pro* What! said she nothing?

*Speed* No, not so much as 'Take this for thy pains.' To testify your bounty, I thank you,

you have testerned me ; in requital whereof,  
henceforth carry your letters yourself And so,  
sir, I'll commend you to my master

*Pro.* Go, go, be gone, to save your ship from  
wreck,

Which cannot perish, having thee aboard,  
Being destined to a drier death on shore.

[*Exit* SPEED.]

I must go send some better messenger  
I fear my Julia would not deign my lines,  
Receiving them from such a worthless post.

[*Exit.*]

SCENE II *The Same* JULIA'S Garden.

*Enter* JULIA and LUCETTA

*Jul* But say, Lucetta, now we are alone,  
Would'st thou then counsel me to fall in love ?

*Luc* Ay, madam, so you stumble not un-  
heedfully.

*Jul* Of all the fair resort of gentlemen,  
That every day with parle encounter me,  
In thy opinion which is worthiest love ?

*Luc.* Please you, repeat their names, I'll show  
my mind

According to my shallow simple skill.

*Jul* What think'st thou of the fair Sir  
Eglamour ?

*Luc* As of a knight well-spoken, neat and  
fine ;

But, were I you, he never should be mine.

*Jul* What think'st thou of the rich Mercatio ?

*Luck.* Well of his wealth ; but of himself,  
so so.

14 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT I.

*Jul* What think'st thou of the gentle Proteus?

*Luc* Lord, Lord! to see what folly reigns  
in us!

*Jul* How now! what means this passion at  
his name?

*Luc* Pardon, dear madam 'tis a passing  
shame

That I, unworthy body as I am,  
Should censure thus on lovely gentlemen.

*Jul* Why not on Proteus, as of all the rest?

*Luc* Then thus,—of many good I think him  
best.

*Jul* Your reason?

*Luc* I have no other but a woman's reason :  
I think him so because I think him so

*Jul* And would'st thou have me cast my love  
on him?

*Luc* Ay, if you thought your love not cast  
away

*Jul* Why, he of all the rest hath never  
moved me

*Luc* Yet he of all the rest, I think, best  
loves ye

*Jul* His little speaking shows his love but  
small.

*Luc* Fire that's closest kept burns most  
of all

*Jul* They do not love that do not show their  
love

*Luc* O! they love least that let men know  
their love

*Jul* I would I knew his mind

*Luc* Peruse this paper, madam.

*Jul* 'To Julia' Say, from whom?

*Luc* 'That the contents will show.

*Jul* Say, say, who gave it thee?

*Luc* Sir Valentine's page, and sent, I think,  
from Proteus

He would have given it you, but I, being in  
the way,

Did in your name receive it pardon the fault,  
I pray

*Jul* Now, by my modesty, a goodly broker!  
Dare you presume to harbour wanton lines?

To whisper and conspire against my youth?

Now, trust me, 'tis an office of great worth

And you an officer fit for the place

There, take the paper; see it be return'd;

Or else return no more into my sight

*Luc* To plead for love deserves more fee  
than hate

*Jul* Will ye be gone?

*Luc.* That you may ruminate  
[Exit

*Jul* And yet I would I had o'erlooked the  
letter

It were a shame to call her back again

And pray her to a fault for which I chide her.

What fool is she, that knows I am a maid,

And would not force the letter to my view!

Since maids, in modesty, say, 'No' to that

Which they would have the profferer construe  
'Ay'

Fie, fie! how wayward is this foolish love

That, like a testy babe, will scratch the nurse

And presently all humbled kiss the rod.



How churlishly I chid Lucetta hence,  
 When willingly I would have had her here !  
 How angerly I taught my brow to frown,  
 When inward joy enforc'd my heart to smile !  
 My penitence is, to call Lucetta back  
 And ask remission for my folly past.  
 What ho ! Lucetta !

*Re-enter LUCETTA*

*Luc* What would your ladyship ?

*Jul.* Is't near dinner-time ?

*Luc* I would it were,  
 That you might kill your stomach on your meat  
 And not upon your maid

*Jul* What is't that you took up so gingerly ?

*Luc.* Nothing

*Jul* Why didst thou stoop then ?

*Luc* To take a paper up  
 That I let fall

*Jul.* And is that paper nothing ?

*Luc* Nothing concerning me

*Jul* Then let it lie for those that it concerns.

*Luc* Madam, it will not lie where it concerns,  
 Unless it have a false interpreter.

*Jul* Some love of yours hath writ to you in  
 rhyme

*Luc.* That I might sing it, madam, to a tune :  
 Give me a note your ladyship can set

*Jul* As little by such toys as may be possible :  
 Best sing it to the tune of ' Light o' love.'

*Luc* It is too heavy for so light a tune.

*Jul* Heavy ! belike it hath some burthen then ?

*Luc.* Ay, and melodious were it, would you

sing it

*Jul* And why not you?

*Luc* I cannot reach so high.

*Jul* Let's see your song. How now, minion!

*Luc* Keep tune there still, so you will sing it out

And yet methinks I do not like this tune.

*Jul* You do not?

*Luc* No, madam, it is too sharp

*Jul* You, minion, are too saucy

*Luc* Nay, now you are too flat

And mar the concord with too harsh a descant

There wanteth but a mean to fill your song

*Jul* The mean is drown'd with your unmuly bass.

*Luc* Indeed, I bid the base for Proteus

*Jul* This babble shall not henceforth trouble me

Here is a coil with protestation! [*Tears the letter.*

Go get you gone, and let the papers lie

You would be fingering them, to anger me

*Luc* She makes it strange, but she would be best pleased

To be so anger'd with another letter [*Exit.*

*Jul* Nay, would I were so anger'd with the same!

O hateful hands, to tear such loving words!

Injurious wasps, to feed on such sweet honey

And kill the bees that yield it with your stings!

I'll kiss each several paper for amends

Look, here is writ 'kind Julia' Unkind Julia!

As in revenge of thy ingratitude,

I throw thy name against the bruising stones,

Trampling contemptuously on thy disdain  
 And here is writ 'love-wounded Proteus'  
 Poor wounded name! my bosom as a bed  
 Shall lodge thee till thy wound be throughly  
 heal'd,

And thus I search it with a sovereign kiss  
 But twice or thrice was 'Proteus' written down:  
 Be calm, good wind, blow not a word away  
 Till I have found each letter in the letter,  
 Except mine own name, that some whirlwind  
 bear

Unto a ragged, fearful-hanging rock.  
 And throw it thence into the raging sea!  
 Lo! here in one line is his name twice writ,  
 'Poor forlorn Proteus, passionate Proteus,  
 To the sweet Julia' that I'll tear away;  
 And yet I will not, sith so prettily  
 He couples it to his complaining names  
 Thus will I fold them one upon another.  
 Now kiss, embrace, contend, do what you will.

*Re-enter LUCETTA.*

*Luc* Madam,  
 Dinner is ready, and your father stays.

*Jul* Well, let us go

*Luc* What! shall these papers lie like tell-tales  
 here?

*Jul* If you respect them, best to take them up

*Luc* Nay, I was taken up for laying them  
 down;

Yet here they shall not lie, for catching cold.

*Jul* I see you have a month's mind to them

*Luc* Ay, madam, you may say what sights

you see ;  
I see things too, although you judge I wink.

*Jul.* Come, come ; will 't please you go ?

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III. *The Same* A Room in ANTONIO'S  
House

*Enter ANTONIO and PANTHINO*

*Ant* Tell me, Panthino, what sad talk was  
that,

Wherewith my brother held you in the cloister ?

*Pant* 'T was of his nephew Proteus, your son.

*Ant* Why, what of him ?

*Pant* He wonder'd that your lordship  
Would suffer him to spend his youth at home,  
While other men, of slender reputation,  
Put forth their sons to seek preferment out  
Some to the wars, to try their fortune there ;  
Some to discover islands far away ;  
Some to the studious universities  
For any or for all these exercises  
He said that Proteus your son was meet,  
And did request me to importune you  
To let him spend his time no more at home,  
Which would be great impeachment to his age,  
In having known no travel in his youth

*Ant.* Nor need'st thou much importune me to  
that

Whereon this month I have been hammering.  
I have consider'd well his loss of time  
And how he cannot be a perfect man,  
Not being tried and tutor'd in the world ;  
Experience is by industry achieved

And perfected by the swift course of time.  
Then tell me, whither were I best to send him?

*Pant* I think your lordship is not ignorant  
How his companion, youthful Valentine,  
Attends the emperor in his royal court.

*Ant* I know it well

*Pant* 'T were good, I think, your lordship  
sent him thither

There shall he practise tilts and tournaments,  
Hear sweet discourse, converse with noblemen,  
And be in eye of every exercise  
Worthy his youth and nobleness of birth.

*Ant* I like thy counsel, well hast thou  
advised

And that thou may'st perceive how well I like it  
The execution of it shall make known.

Even with the speediest expedition  
I will dispatch him to the emperor's court.

*Pant* To-morrow, may it please you, Don  
Alphonso

With other gentlemen of good esteem  
Are journeying to salute the emperor  
And to commend their service to his will.

*Ant* Good company, with them shall Proteus go  
And in good time Now will we break with him.

*Enter PROTEUS.*

*Pro* Sweet love! sweet lines! sweet life!  
Here is her hand, the agent of her heart;  
Here is her oath for love, her honour's pawn.  
O! that our fathers would applaud our loves,  
To seal our happiness with their consents.

O heavenly Julia !

*Ant* How now ! what letter are you reading there ?

*Pro* May 't please your lordship, 'tis a word or two

Of commendations sent from Valentine,  
Deliver'd by a friend that came from him.

*Ant* Lend me the letter, let me see what news

*Pro* There is no news, my lord, but that he writes

How happily he lives, how well beloved

And daily graced by the emperor ;

Wishing me with him, partner of his fortune.

*Ant* And how stand you affected to his wish ?

*Pro* As one relying on your lordship's will  
And not depending on his friendly wish

*Ant* My will is something sorted with his wish

Muse not that I thus suddenly proceed,

For what I will, I will, and there an end.

I am resolved that thou shalt spend some time

With Valentinus in the emperor's court

What maintenance he from his friends receives,

Like exhibition thou shalt have from me.

To-morrow be in readiness to go

Excuse it not, for I am peremptory.

*Pro* My lord, I cannot be so soon provided :  
Please you, deliberate a day or two

*Ant* Look, what thou want'st shall be sent  
after thee .

No more of stay ; to-morrow thou must go.

Come on, Panthino . you shall be employ'd .

22 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT II.

To hasten on his expedition.

[*Exeunt* ANTONIO and PANTHINO.

*Pro.* Thus have I shunned the fire for fear of  
burning,  
And drench'd me in the sea, where I am  
drown'd.

I fear'd to show my father Julia's letter,  
Lest he should take exceptions to my love ;  
And with the vantage of mine own excuse  
Hath he excepted most against my love.

O ! how this spring of love resembleth  
The uncertain glory of an April day,  
Which now shows all the beauty of the sun,  
And by and by a cloud takes all away.

*Re-enter* PANTHINO.

*Pant.* Sir Proteus, your father calls for you :  
He is in haste ; therefore, I pray  
you, go.

*Pro.* Why, this it is. my heart accords  
thereto,  
And yet a thousand times it answers,  
'no.' [Exeunt.

ACT II.

SCENE I. *Milan. A Room in the Duke's  
Palace.*

*Enter* VALENTINE and SPEED.

*Speed.* Sir, your glove.

*Val.* Not mine ; my gloves are on.

*Speed.* Why, then this may be yours, for this  
is but one.

*Val.* Ha! let me see: ay, give it me, it's mine,

Sweet ornament that decks a thing divine!

Ah Silvia! Silvia!

*Speed.* Madam Silvia! Madam Silvia!

*Val.* How now, sirrah?

*Speed.* She is not within hearing, sir.

*Val.* Why, sir, who bade you call her?

*Speed.* Your worship, sir, or else I mistook.

*Val.* Well, you'll still be too forward

*Speed.* And yet I was last chidden for being too slow

*Val.* Go to, sir. Tell me, do you know Madam Silvia?

*Speed.* She that your worship loves?

*Val.* Why, how know you that I am in love?

*Speed.* Marry, by these special marks First, you have learned, like Sir Proteus, to wreath your arms, like a malecontent, to relish a love-song, like a robin-redbreast, to walk alone, like one that had the pestilence, to sigh, like a school-boy that had lost his A B C, to weep, like a young wench that had buried her grandam; to fast, like one that takes diet; to watch, like one that fears robbing; to speak pining, like a beggar at Hallowmas. You were wont, when you laughed, to crow like a cock, when you walked, to walk like one of the lions; when you fasted, it was presently after dinner; when you looked sadly, it was for want of money: and now you are metamorphosed with a mistress, that, when I look on you, I can hardly think you my master.



*Val* Are all these things perceived in me?

*Speed* They are all perceived without ye

*Val* Without me? they cannot.

*Speed* Without you? nay, that's certain; for, without you were so simple, none else would but you are so without these follies, that these follies are within you and shine through you like the water in an urnal, that not an eye that sees you but is a physician to comment on your malady

*Val* But, tell me, dost thou know my lady Silvia?

*Speed* She that you gaze on so as she sits at supper?

*Val* Hast thou observed that? even she I mean

*Speed* Why, sir, I know her not

*Val* Dost thou know her by my gazing on her, and yet knowest her not?

*Speed* Is she not hard-favoured, sir?

*Val* Not so fair, boy, as well-favoured.

*Speed* Sir, I know that well enough.

*Val* What dost thou know?

*Speed* That she is not so fair, as, of you, well-favoured

*Val* I mean that her beauty is exquisite, but her favour infinite.

*Speed* That's because the one is painted and the other out of all count.

*Val* How painted? and how out of count?

*Speed* Marry, sir, so painted to make her fair, that no man counts of her beauty

*Val* How esteemest thou me? I account of.

her beauty.

*Speed* You never saw her since she was deformed

*Val* How long hath she been deformed?

*Speed* Ever since you loved her

*Val* I have loved her ever since I saw her, and still I see her beautiful

*Speed* If you love her you cannot see her.

*Val* Why?

*Speed* Because love is blind O! that you had mine eyes, or your own eyes had the lights they were wont to have when you chid at Sir Proteus for going ungartered

*Val* What should I see then?

*Speed*. Your own present folly and her passing deformity, for he, being in love, could not see to garter his hose, and you, being in love, cannot see to put on your hose

*Val* Belike, boy, then, you are in love, for last morning you could not see to wipe my shoes

*Speed* True, sir, I was in love with my bed. I thank you, you swung me for my love, which makes me the bolder to chide you for yours.

*Val* In conclusion, I stand affected to her

*Speed* I would you were set, so your affection would cease

*Val* Last night she enjoined me to write some lines to one she loves.

*Speed* And have you?

*Val* I have

*Speed*. Are they not lamely writ?

*Val* No, boy, but as well as I can, do them.  
Peace! here she comes.

*Speed* [*Aside*] O excellent motion! O exceeding puppet! Now will he interpret to her.

*Enter SILVIA*

*Val* Madam and mistress, a thousand good-morrows

*Speed* [*Aside*] O! give ye good even here's a million of manners

*Sil* Sir Valentine and servant, to you two thousand

*Speed* [*Aside*] He should give her interest, and she gives it him

*Val* As you enjoin'd me, I have writ your letter

Unto the secret nameless friend of yours;  
Which I was much unwilling to proceed in,  
But for my duty to your ladyship

*Sil* I thank you, gentle servant. 'Tis very clerkly done

*Val* Now trust me, madam, it came hardly off;

For, being ignorant to whom it goes,  
I writ at random, very doubtfully

*Sil* Perchance you think too much of so much pains?

*Val* No, madam: so it stead you, I will write,

Please you command, a thousand times as much:  
And yet—

*Sil* A pretty period! Well, I guess the sequel;

And yet I will not name it, and yet I care not;  
And yet take this again, and yet I thank you,  
Meaning henceforth to trouble you no more.

*Speed.* [*Aside*] And yet you will, and yet  
another yet.

*Val.* What means your ladyship? do you not  
like it?

*Sil.* Yes, yes the lines are very quaintly writ,  
But since unwillingly, take them again.

Nay, take them

*Val.* Madam, they are for you

*Sil.* Ay, ay, you writ them, sir, at my request,  
But I will none of them, they are for you.  
I would have had them writ more movingly.

*Val.* Please you, I'll write your ladyship  
another

*Sil.* And when it's writ, for my sake read it  
over

And if it please you, so; if not, why, so

*Val.* If it please me, madam, what then?

*Sil.* Why, if it please you, take it for your  
labour

And so good morrow, servant. [*Exit.*]

*Speed.* O jest unseen, inscrutable, invisible,  
As a nose on a man's face, or a weathercock on a  
steeple!

My master sues to her, and she hath taught her  
sutor,

He being her pupil, to become her tutor

O excellent device! was there ever heard a  
better,

That my master, being scribe, to himself should  
write the letter?

28 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VÉRONA. [ACT II

*Val* How now, sir ' what are yo<sup>r</sup> reasoning with yourself?

*Speed* Nay, I was rhyming 'tis you that have the reason

*Val* To do what?

*Speed* To be a spokesman from Madam Silvia.

*Val* To whom?

*Speed* To yourself Why, she wooes you by a figure

*Val* What figure?

*Speed* By a letter, I should say

*Val* Why, she hath not writ to me?

*Speed* What need she, when she hath made you write to yourself? Why, do you not perceive the jest?

*Val* No, believe me

*Speed* No believing you, indeed, sir but did you perceive her earnest?

*Val* She gave me none, except an angry word.

*Speed* Why, she hath given you a letter

*Val* That's the letter I writ to her friend.

*Speed*. And that letter hath she delivered, and there an end.

*Val* I would it were no worse

*Speed*. I'll warrant you, t'is as well:

For often have you writ to her, and she, in modesty,

Or else for want of idle tyme, could not again reply;

Or fearing else some messenger, that might her mind discover,

Herself hath taught her love himself to write  
unto her lover.

All this I speak in print, for in print I found it.  
Why muse you, sir? 'tis dinner-time

*Jul* I have dined

*Speed* Ay, but hearken, sir though the chameleon Love can feed on the air, I am one that am nourished by my victuals, and would fain have meat. O' be not like your mistress. He moved, be moved  
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II. Verona. A Room in JULIA'S House

*Enter* PROTEUS and JULIA

*Pro.* Have patience, gentle Julia

*Jul* I must, where is no remedy

*Pro* When possibly I can, I will return.

*Jul* If you turn not, you will return the sooner

Keep this remembrance for thy Julia's sake.

[*Giving a ring*]

*Pro* Why, then, we'll make exchange here.  
take you this

*Jul* And seal the bargain with a holy kiss.

*Pro* Here is my hand for my true constancy;  
And when that hour o'erships me in the day  
Wherein I sigh not, Julia, for thy sake,  
The next ensuing hour some foul mischance  
Torment me for my love's forgetfulness!  
My father stays my coming, answer not  
The tide is now. nay, not thy tide of tears;  
That tide will stay me longer than I should  
Julia, farewell.  
[*Exit* JULIA.]

What! gone without a word?

Ay, so true love should do. it cannot speak;

30 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT II.

For truth hath better deeds than words to  
grace it

*Enter PANTHINO*

*Pant* Sir Proteus, you are stay'd for.

*Pro* Go, I come, I come.

Alas! this parting strikes poor lovers dumb.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III *The Same A Street*

*Enter LAUNCE, leading a dog*

*Launce* Nay, 'twill be this hour ere I have done weeping all the kind of the Launces have this very fault. I have received my proportion, like the prodigious son, and am going with Sir Proteus to the imperial's court. I think Crab, my dog, be the sourest-natured dog that lives. my mother weeping, my father wailing, my sister crying, our maid howling, our cat wringing her hands, and all our house in a great perplexity, yet did not this cruel-hearted cur shed one tear. He is a stone, a very pebble stone, and has no more pity in him than a dog, a Jew would have wept to have seen our parting. why, my grandam, having no eyes, look you, wept herself blind at my parting. Nay, I'll show you the manner of it. This shoe is my father, no, this left shoe is my father, no, no, this left shoe is my mother, nay, that cannot be so neither. yes, it is so, it is so, it hath the worser sole. This shoe, with the hole in it, is my mother, and this my father. A vengeance on't! there

'tis. now sir, this staff is my sister, for, look you, she is as white as a lily and as small as a wand. this hat is Nan, our maid. I am the dog; no, the dog is himself, and I am the dog, O! the dog is me, and I am myself. ay, so, so. Now come I to my father, 'Father, your blessing' now should not the shoe speak a word for weeping. now should I kiss my father; well, he weeps on. Now come I to my mother, O! that she could speak now like a wood woman. Well, I kiss her, why, there 'tis, here's my mother's breath up and down. Now come I to my sister, mark the moan she makes. Now the dog all this while sheds not a tear, nor speaks a word, but see how I lay the dust with my tears.

*Enter PANTHINO.*

*Pant* Launce, away, away, aboard! thy master is shipped, and thou art to post after with oars. What's the matter? why weepest thou, man? Away, ass! you'll lose the tide if you tarry any longer.

*Launce* It is no matter if the tied were lost, for it is the unkindest tied that ever any man tied.

*Pant.* What's the unkindest tide?

*Launce* Why, he that's tied here, Crab, my dog.

*Pant* Tut man, I mean thou'lt lose the flood; and, in losing the flood, lose thy voyage, and, in losing thy voyage, lose thy master, and, in losing thy master, lose thy service; and, in



32 *TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONÁ.* [ACT II.

losing thy service,—Why dost thou stop my mouth?

*Launce* For fear thou should'st lose thy tongue

*Pant* Where should I lose my tongue?

*Launce* In thy tale

*Pant* In thy tail!

*Launce* Lose the tide, and the voyage, and the master, and the service, and the tied! Why, man, if the river were dry, I am able to fill it with my tears, if the wind were down, I could drive the boat with my sighs

*Pant* Come, come away, man; I was sent to call thee

*Launce* Sir, call me what thou darest.

*Pant* Wilt thou go?

*Launce* Well, I will go [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV *Milan A Room in the DUKE'S Palace*

*Enter VALENTINE, SILVIA, THURIO, and SPEED.*

*Sil* Servant!

*Val* Mistress?

*Speed.* Master, Sir Thurio frowns on you.

*Val* Ay, boy, it's for love

*Speed.* Not of you

*Val.* Of my mistress then

*Speed* 'T were good you knock'd him.

*Sil* Servant, you are sad

*Val* Indeed, madam, I seem so.

*Thu* Seem you that you are not?

*Val.* Haply I do

*Thu.* So do counterfeit

*Val.* So do you.

*Thu.* What seem I that I am not?

*Val.* Wise

*Thu.* What instance of the contrary?

*Val.* Your folly

*Thu.* And how quote you my folly?

*Val.* I quote it in your jerkin

*Thu.* My jerkin is a doublet

*Val.* Well, then, I'll double your folly.

*Thu.* How?

*Sil.* What, angry, Sir Thurio? do you change colour?

*Val.* Give him leave, madam he is a kind of chameleon

*Thu.* That hath more mind to feed on your blood than live in your air

*Val.* You have said, sir

*Thu.* Ay, sir, and done too, for this time

*Val.* I know it well, sir. you always end ere you begin.

*Sil.* A fine volley of words, gentlemen, and quickly shot off

*Val.* 'Tis indeed, madam, we thank the giver.

*Sil.* Who is that, servant?

*Val.* Yourself, sweet lady, for you gave the fire. Sir Thurio borrows his wit from your ladyship's looks, and spends what he borrows kindly in your company

*Thu.* Sir, if you spend word for word with me, I shall make your wit bankrupt

*Val.* I know it well, sir you have an exchange of words, and, I think, no other treasure

34 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT II.

to give your followers ; for it appears by their bare liveries that they live by your bare words.

*Sil* No more, gentlemen, no more. Here comes my father

*Enter DUKE*

*Duke* Now, daughter Silvia, you are hard beset

*Sil* Valentine, your father's in good health  
What say you to a letter from your friends  
Of much good news ?

*Val* My lord, I will be thankful  
To any happy messenger from thence

*Duke* Know you Don Antonio, your countryman ?

*Val* Ay, my good lord ; I know the gentleman

To be of worth and worthy estimation,  
And not without desert so well reputed.

*Duke* Hath he not a son ?

*Val* Ay, my good lord ; a son that well deserves

The honour and regard of such a father.

*Duke* You know him well ?

*Val* I know him as myself ; for from our infancy

We have conversed and spent our hours together :  
And though myself have been an idle truant,  
Omitting the sweet benefit of time

To clothe mine age with angel like perfection,  
Yet hath *Sil* Proteus, for that's his name,  
Made use and fair advantage of his days .

His years but young, but his experience old ;  
His head unmellow'd, but his judgment ripe ;

And, in a word, for far behind his worth  
 Comes all the praises that I now bestow,  
 He is complete in feature and in mind  
 With all good grace to grace a gentleman

*Duke* Beshrew me, sir, but if he make this  
 good,

He is as worthy for an empress' love  
 As meet to be an emperor's counsellor  
 Well, sir, this gentleman is come to me  
 With commendation from great potentates ;  
 And here he means to spend his time awhile .  
 I think 't is no unwelcome news to you

*Val* Should I have wish'd a thing, it had  
 been he

*Duke* Welcome him then according to his  
 worth

*Silvia*, I speak to you , and you, Sir *Thurio* .  
 For *Valentine*, I need not cite him to it  
 I'll send him hither to you presently [ *Exit.*

*Val* This is the gentleman I told your lady-  
 ship

Had come along with me, but that his mistress  
 Did hold his eyes lock'd in her crystal looks

*Sil* Belike that now she hath enfranchised  
 them

Upon some other pawn for fealty

*Val* Nay, sure, I think she holds them  
 prisoners still

*Sil* Nay, then he should be blind , and, being  
 blind,

How could he see his way to seek out you?

*Val*. Why, lady, Love hath twenty pair of  
 eyes.

36 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT II.

*Thu* They say that Love hath not an eye at all.

*Val* To see such lovers, Thurio, as yourself:  
Upon a homely object Love can wink.

*Enter PROTEUS*

*Sil* Have done, have done Here comes the gentleman

*Val* Welcome, dear Proteus! Mistress, I beseech you,

Confirm his welcome with some special favour

*Sil* His worth is warrant for his welcome hither,

If this be he you oft have wish'd to hear from.

*Val* Mistress, it is Sweet lady, entertain him

To be my fellow-servant to your ladyship

*Sil* Too low a mistress for so high a servant

*Pro* Not so, sweet lady, but too mean a servant

To have a look of such a worthy mistress.

*Val* Leave off discourse of disability.

Sweet lady, entertain him for your servant.

*Pro.* My duty will I boast of, nothing else.

*Sil* And duty never yet did want his need.

Servant, you are welcome to a worthless mistress.

*Pro* I'll die on him that says so but yourself.

*Sil* That you are welcome?

*Pro.* That you are worthless.

*Enter a Servant*

*Serv* Madam, my lord your father would speak with you.

*Sil.* I wait upon his pleasure. [*Exit Servant.*

Come, Sir Thurio,  
Go with me Once more, new servant, welcome:  
I'll leave you to confer of home-affairs,  
When you have done, we look to hear from you.

*Pro* We'll both attend upon your ladyship

[*Exeunt SILVIA, THURIO, and SPEED.*]

*Val* Now, tell me, how do all from whence  
you came?

*Pro* Your friends are well and have them  
much commended

*Val* And how do yours?

*Pro* I left them all in health.

*Val* How does your lady, and how thrives  
your love?

*Pro* My tales of love were wont to weary  
you,

I know you joy not in a love-discourse

*Val* Ay, Proteus, but that life is alter'd now:  
I have done penance for contemning Love,  
Whose high imperious thoughts have punish'd  
me

With bitter fasts, with penitential groans,  
With nightly tears and daily heart-sore sighs;  
For in revenge of my contempt of love,  
Love hath chased sleep from my enthralled eyes,  
And made them watchers of mine own heart's  
sorrow

O gentle Proteus! Love's a mighty lord,  
And hath so humbled me as I confess  
There is no woe to his correction,  
Nor to his service no such joy on earth.  
Now no discourse, except it be of love;  
Now can I break my fast, dine, sup and sleep,

Upon the very naked name of love

*Pro* Enough, I read your fortune in your eye

Was this the idol that you worship so?

*Val* Even she, and is she not a heavenly saint?

*Pro* No, but she is an earthly paragon

*Val* Call her divine

*Pro* I will not flatter her.

*Val* O! flatter me, for love delights in praises

*Pro* When I was sick you gave me bitter pills,

And I must minister the like to you

*Val* Then speak the truth by her: if not divine,

Yet let her be a principality,

Sovereign to all the creatures on the earth.

*Pro* Except my mistress

*Val* Sweet, except not any,  
Except thou wilt except against my love

*Pro* Have I not reason to prefer mine own?

*Val* And I will help thee to prefer her too:  
She shall be dignified with this high honour,—  
To bear my lady's train, lest the base earth  
Should from her vesture chance to steal a kiss,  
And, of so great a favour growing proud,  
Disdain to root the summer-swelling flower,  
And make rough winter everlastingly

*Pro* Why, Valentine, what braggardism is this?

*Val* Pardon me, Proteus all I can is nothing  
To her whose worth makes other worthies

nothing.

She is alone.

*Pro.* Then let her alone

*Val* Not for the world Why, man, she is  
mine own,

And I as rich in having such a jewel  
As twenty seas, if all their sand were pearl,  
The water nectar, and the rocks pure gold.  
Forgive me that I do not dream on thee,  
Because thou seest me dote upon my love.  
My foolish rival, that her father likes  
Only for his possessions are so huge,  
Is gone with her along, and I must after,  
For love, thou know'st, is full of jealousy.

*Pro* But she loves you?

*Val* Ay, and we are betroth'd, nay, more,  
our marriage-hour,

With all the cunning manner of our flight,  
Determined of how I must climb her window,  
The ladder made of cords, and all the means  
Plotted and 'greed on for my happiness.  
Good Proterus, go with me to my chamber,  
In these affairs to aid me with thy counsel.

*Pro* Go on before, I shall enquire you forth.  
I must unto the road, to disembark  
Some necessaries that I needs must use,  
And then I'll presently attend you.

*Val.* Will you make haste?

*Pro.* I will • • • [Exit VALENTINE

Even as one heat another heat expels,  
Or as one nail by strength drives out another,  
So the remembrance of my former love  
Is by a newer object quite forgotten.



Is it mine eye, or Valentinus' praise,  
 Her true perfection, or my false transgression,  
 That makes me reasonless to reason thus?  
 She is fair, and so is Julia that I love,—  
 That I did love, for now my love is thaw'd,  
 Which like a waxen image 'gainst a fire,  
 Bears no impression of the thing it was.  
 Methinks my zeal to Valentine is cold,  
 And that I love him not as I was wont.  
 O! but I love his lady too too much,  
 And that's the reason I love him so little  
 How shall I dote on her with more advice,  
 That thus without advice begin to love her?  
 'Tis but her picture I have yet beheld,  
 And that hath dazzled my reason's light,  
 But when I look on her perfections,  
 There is no reason but I shall be blind  
 If I can check my erring love, I will,  
 If not, to compass her I'll use my skill [Exit.

SCENE V. *The Same A Street.*

*Enter SPEED and LAUNCE*

*Speed* Launce! by mine honesty, welcome to Milan!

*Launce.* Forswear not thyself, sweet youth, for I am not welcome I reckon this always, that a man is never undone till he be hanged; nor never welcome to a place till some certain shot be paid, and the hostess say, 'Welcome!'

*Speed.* Come on, you madcap, I'll to the ale-house with you presently, where, for one shot

of five pence, thou shalt have five thousand welcomes But, sirrah, how did thy master part with Madam Julia?

*Launce.* Marry, after they closed in earnest, they parted very fairly in jest

*Speed.* But shall she marry him?

*Launce.* No

*Speed.* How then? Shall he marry her?

*Launce.* No, neither

*Speed.* What, are they broken?

*Launce.* No, they are both as whole as a fish.

*Speed.* Why, then, how stands the matter with them?

*Launce.* Marry, thus, when it stands well with him, it stands well with her

*Speed.* What an ass art thou! I understand thee not.

*Launce.* What a block art thou, that thou canst not! My staff understands me.

*Speed.* What thou sayest?

*Launce.* Ay, and what I do too look thee, I'll but lean, and my staff understands me

*Speed.* It stands under thee, indeed

*Launce.* Why, stand-under and under-stand is all one

*Speed.* But tell me true, will't be a match?

*Launce.* Ask my dog if he say ay, it will; if he say no, it will; if he shake his tail and say nothing, it will

*Speed.* The conclusion is then that it will.

*Launce.* Thou shalt never get such a secret from me but by a parable.

*Speed.* 'Tis well that I get it so. But, Launce,

42 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT II.

how sayest thou, that my master is welcome a notable lover?

*Launce* I never knew him otherwise

*Speed*. Than how?

*Launce* A notable lubber, as thou reportest him to be

*Speed* Why, thou whoreson ass, thou mistakest me.

*Launce* Why, fool, I meant not thee; I meant thy master

*Speed* I tell thee, my master is become a hot lover.

*Launce* Why, I tell thee, I care not though he burn himself in love. If thou wilt, go with me to the ale-house, if not, thou art an Hebrew, a Jew, and not worth the name of a Christian.

*Speed* Why?

*Launce* Because thou hast not so much charity in thee as to go to the ale with a Christian. Wilt thou go?

*Speed* At thy service. [Exit.

SCENE VI. *The Same* An Apartment in  
the DUKE'S Palace

*Enter* PROTEUS

*Pro* To leave my Julia, shall I be forsworn;  
To love fair Silvia, shall I be forsworn;  
To wrong my friend, I shall be much forsworn;  
And even that power which gave me first my  
oath

Provokes me to this threefold perjury.  
Love bade me swear and love bids me forswear.

O sweet-suggesting love ! if thou hast sinn'd,  
 Teach me, thy tempted subject, to excuse it.  
 At first I did adore a twinkling star,  
 But now I worship a celestial sun.  
 Unheedful vows may heedfully be broken,  
 And he wants wit that wants resolved will  
 To learn his wit to exchange the bad for better.  
 Fie, fie, unreverend tongue ! to call her bad,  
 Whose sovereignty so oft thou hast prefer'd  
 With twenty thousand soul-confirming oaths  
 I cannot leave to love, and yet I do ;  
 But there I leave to love where I should love.  
 Julia I lose and Valentine I lose .  
 If I keep them, I needs must lose myself ;  
 If I lose them, thus find I by their loss  
 For Valentine, myself, for Julia, Silvia  
 I to myself am dearer than a friend,  
 For love is still most precious in itself,  
 And Silvia—witness heaven, that made her  
     fair !—  
 Shows Julia but a swarthy Ethiop.  
 I will forget that Julia is alive,  
 Remembering that my love to her is dead,  
 And Valentine I'll hold an enemy,  
 Aiming at Silvia as a sweeter friend.  
 I cannot now prove constant to myself,  
 Without some treachery us'd to Valentine .  
 This night he meaneth with a corded ladder  
 To climb celestial Silvia's chamber-window,  
 Myself in counsel, his competitor.  
 Now presently I'll give her father notice  
 Of their disguising and pretended flight ;  
 Who, all enraged, will banish Valentine ;

44 *TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA.* [ACT II.

For Thurio, he intends, shall wed his daughter;  
But, Valentine being gone, I'll quickly cross  
By some sly trick blunt Thurio's dull proceeding.  
Love, lend me wings to make my purpose swift,  
As thou hast lent me wit to plot this drift!

[*Exit.*

SCENE VII *Verona A Room in JULIA'S  
House*

*Enter JULIA and LUCETTA.*

*Jul* Counsel, Lucetta, gentle girl, assist me;  
And e'en in kind love I do conjure thee,  
Who art the table wherein all my thoughts  
Are visibly character'd and engraved,  
To lesson me and tell me some good mean  
How, with my honour, I may undertake  
A journey to my loving Proteus

*Luc* Alas! the way is wearisome and long.

*Jul* A true-devoted pilgrim is not weary  
To measure kingdoms with his feeble steps;  
Much less shall she that hath Love's wings to fly,  
And when the flight is made to one so dear,  
Of such divine perfection, as Sir Proteus.

*Luc* Better forbear till Proteus make return.

*Jul* O! know'st thou not his looks are my  
soul's food?

Pity the dearth that I have pined in,  
By longing for that food so long a time,  
Didst thou but know the only touch of love,  
Thou would'st as soon go kindle fire with snow  
As seek to quench the fire of love with words.

*Luc.* I do not seek to quench your love's hot

fire  
But qualify the fire's extreme rage,  
Lest it should burn above the bounds of reason  
*Jul.* The more thou damm'st it up the more it  
burns

The current that with gentle murmur glides,  
Thou know'st, being stopp'd, impatiently doth  
rage,

But when his fair course is not hindered,  
He makes sweet music with the enamell'd stones,  
Giving a gentle kiss to every sedge  
He overtaketh in his pilgrimage,  
And so by many winding nooks he strays  
With willing sport to the wild ocean  
Then let me go and hinder not my course.  
I'll be as patient as a gentle stream  
And make a pastime of each weary step,  
Till the last step have brought me to my love;  
And there I'll rest, as after much turmoil  
A blessed soul doth in Elysium

*Luc.* But in what habit will you go along?

*Jul.* Not like a woman, for I would prevent  
The loose encounters of lascivious men.  
Gentle Lucetta, fit me with such weeds  
As may bescem some well-reputed page.

*Luc.* Why, then your ladyship must cut your  
hair.

*Jul.* No, girl; I'll knit it up in silken strings  
With twenty odd-conceited true-love knots:  
To be fantastic may become a youth  
Of greater time than I shall show to be.

*Luc.* What fashion, madam, shall I make your  
breeches?

*Jul* That fits as well as, 'Tell me, good my lord,

What compass will you wear your 'farthingale?'  
Why, even what fashion thou best lik'st, Lucetta.

*Luc* You must needs have them with a cod-piece, madam

*Jul* Out, out, Lucetta! that will be ill-favour'd.

*Luc* A round hose, madam, now's not worth a pin,

Unless you have a cod-piece to stick pins on.

*Jul* Lucetta, as thou lov'st me, let me have  
What thou think'st meet and is most mannerly.  
But tell me, wench, how will the world repute me  
For undertaking so unsta'd a journey?  
I fear me, it will make me scandalized.

*Luc* If you think so, then stay at home and go not

*Jul* Nay, that I will not

*Luc* Then never dream on infamy, but go.  
If Proteus like your journey when you come,  
No matter who's displeased when you are gone.  
I fear me, he will scarce be pleased withal.

*Jul* That is the least, Lucetta, of my fear.  
A thousand oaths, an ocean of his tears  
And instances of infinite of love  
Warrant me welcome to my Proteus.

*Luc* All these are servants to deceitful men.

*Jul* Base men, that use them to so base effect!  
But truer stars did govern Proteus' birth:  
His words are bonds, his oaths are oracles,  
His love sincere, his thoughts immaculate,  
His tears pure messengers sent from his heart,  
His heart as far from fraud as heaven from earth.

ACT III ] *TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA.* 47

*Luc.* Pray heaven he prove so when you come to him !

*Jul.* Now, as thou lov'st me, do him not that wrong,

To bear a hard opinion of his truth :

Only deserve my love by loving him ;

And presently go with me to my chamber,

To take a note of what I stand in need of

To furnish me upon my longing journey.

All that is mine I leave at thy dispose,

My goods, my lands, my reputation ;

Only, in lieu thereof, dispatch me hence.

Come, answer not, but to it presently !

I am impatient of my tarriance [Exeunt.

ACT III.

SCENE I. *Milan An Antichamber in the  
DUKE'S Palace*

*Enter DUKE, THURIO, and PROTEUS.*

*Duke.* Sir Thurio, give us leave, I pray, awhile :  
We have some secrets to confer about.

[Exit THURIO.

Now, tell me, Proteus, what's your will with me ?

*Pro.* My gracious lord, that which I would  
discover

The law of friendship bids me to conceal ;

But when I call to mind your gracious favours

Done to me, undeserving as I am,

My duty pricks me on to utter that

Which else no worldly good should draw from me.

Know, worthy prince, Sir Valentine, my friend,



This night intends to steal away your daughter:  
 Myself am one made privy to the plot  
 I know you have determin'd to bestow her  
 On Thurio, whom your gentle daughter hates;  
 And should she thus be stol'n away from you  
 It would be much vexation to your age.  
 Thus, for my duty's sake, I rather chuse  
 To cross my friend in his intended drift,  
 Than, by concealing it, heap on your head  
 A pack of sorrows which would press you down,  
 Being unprevent'd, to your timeless grave.

*Duke* Proteus, I thank thee for thine honest  
 care,

Which to requite, command me while I live.  
 This love of theirs myself have often seen,  
 Haply when they have judg'd me fast asleep,  
 And oftentimes have purposed to forbid  
 Sir Valentine her company and my court;  
 But fearing lest my jealous aim might err  
 And so unworthily disgrace the man,  
 A rashness that I ever yet have shunn'd,  
 I gave him gentle looks, thereby to find  
 That which thyself hast now disclosed to me.  
 And, that thou may'st perceive my fear of this,  
 Knowing that tender youth is soon suggested,  
 I nightly lodge her in an upper tower,  
 The key whereof myself have ever kept;  
 And thence she cannot be convey'd away

*Pro.* Know, noble lord, they have devised a  
 mean

How he her chamber-window will ascend  
 And with a corded ladder fetch her down;  
 For which the youthful lover now is gone,

And this way comes he with it presently ;  
 Where, if it please you, you may intercept him.  
 But good my lord, do it so cunningly  
 That my discovery be not aimed at,  
 For love of you, not hate unto my friend,  
 Hath made me publisher of this pretence

*Duke.* Upon mine honour, he shall never know  
 That I had any light from thee of this

*Pro.* Adieu, my lord Sir Valentine is coming  
 [Exit.

*Enter VALENTINE*

*Duke* Sir Valentine, whither away so fast?

*Val.* Please it your grace, there is a messenger  
 That stays to hear my letters to my friends,  
 And I am going to deliver them

*Duke* Be they of much import?

*Val* The tenour of them doth but signify  
 My health and happy being at your court.

*Duke.* Nay then, no matter stay with me  
 awhile;

I am to break with thee of some affairs  
 That touch me near, wherein thou must be secret.  
 'Tis not unknown to thee that I have sought  
 To match my friend Sir Thurio to my daughter.

*Val.* I know it well, my lord; and sure, the  
 match

Were rich and honourable, besides, the gentleman  
 Is full of virtue, bounty, worth and qualities  
 Beseeming such a wife as your fair daughter.  
 Cannot your grace win her to fancy him?

*Duke.* No, trust me she is peevish, sullen,  
 froward,

Proud, disobedient, stubborn, lacking duty, .

Neither regarding that she is my child,  
 Nor fearing me as if I were her father  
 And, may I say to thee, this pride of hers,  
 Upon advice, hath drawn my love from her;  
 And, where I thought the remnant of mine age  
 Should have been cherish'd by her childlike duty,  
 I now am full resolved to take a wife  
 And turn her out to who will take her in:  
 Then let her beauty be her wedding-dower;  
 For me and my possessions she esteems not.

*Val* What would your grace have me to do in this?

*Duke* There is a lady in Verona here,  
 Whom I affect, but she is nice and coy,  
 And nought esteems my aged eloquence:  
 Now, therefore, would I have thee to my tutor,  
 For long ago I have forgot to court,  
 Besides, the fashion of the time is changed,  
 How and which way I may bestow myself  
 To be regarded in her sun-bright eye.

*Val* Win her with gifts, if she respect not words  
 Dumb jewels often, in their silent kind,  
 More than quick words do move a woman's mind

*Duke* But she did scorn a present that I sent her.

*Val* A woman sometimes scorns what best contents her  
 Send her another; never give her o'er,  
 For scorn at first makes after-love the more.  
 If she do frown, 't is not in hate of you,  
 But rather to beget more love in you;

If she do chide, 't is not to have you gone ;  
 For why, the fools are mad if left alone  
 Take no repulse, whatever she doth say ;  
 For 'get you gone,' she doth not mean 'away !'  
 Flatter and praise, commend, extol their graces ;  
 Though ne'er so black, say they have angels' faces.  
 That man that hath a tongue, I say, is no man,  
 If with his tongue he cannot win a woman

*Duke* But she I mean is promised by her friends

Unto a youthful gentleman of worth,  
 And kept severely from resort of men,  
 That no man hath access by day to her

*Val* Why then, I would resort to her by night

*Duke* Ay, but the doors be lock'd and keys kept safe,

That no man hath recourse to her by night

*Val* What lets but one may enter at her window ?

*Duke.* Her chamber is aloft, far from the ground,

And built so shelving that one cannot climb it  
 Without apparent hazard of his life

*Val.* Why then, a ladder quaintly made of cords,

To cast up, with a pair of anchoring hooks,  
 Would serve to scale another Hero's tower,  
 So bold Leander would adventure it.

*Duke.* Now, as thou art a gentleman of blood,  
 Advise me where I may have such a ladder

*Val.* When would you use it ? pray, sir, tell me that.

52 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT III.]

*Duke* This very night, for Love is like a child,  
That longs for every thing that he can come by.

*Val* By seven o'clock I'll get you such a ladder

*Duke* But hark thee, I will go to her alone :  
How shall I best convey the ladder thither ?

*Val* It will be light, my lord, that you may hear it

Under a cloak that is of any length

*Duke* A cloak as long as thine will serve the turn ?

*Val* Ay, my good lord

*Duke* Then let me see thy cloak :  
I'll get me one of such another length

*Val* Why, any cloak will serve the turn, my lord

*Duke* How shall I fashion me to wear a cloak ?  
I pray thee, let me feel thy cloak upon me.  
What letter is this same ? What's here ? To

*Silvia !*

And here an engine fit for my proceeding !  
I'll be so bold to break the seal for once [*Reads*,

*My thoughts do harbour with my Silvia nightly,  
And slaves they are to me that send them flying :  
O ! could their master come and go as lightly,  
Himself would lodge where senseless they are lying.  
My herald thoughts in thy pure bosom rest them ;  
While I, their king, that hither them importune,  
Do curse the grace that with such grace hath bless'd  
them,*

*Because myself do want my servants' fortune :*

*I curse myself, for they are sent by me,  
That they should harbour where their lord would be.*

What's here?

*Silvia, this night I will enfranchise thee*

'Tis so; and here's the ladder for the purpose.  
Why, Phaethon, for thou art Merops' son,  
Wilt thou aspire to guide the heavenly car  
And with thy daring folly burn the world?  
Wilt thou reach stars, because they shine on thee?  
Go, base intruder! overweening slave!  
Bestow thy fawning smiles on equal mates,  
And think my patience, more than thy desert,  
Is privilege for thy departure hence  
Thank me for this more than for all the favours  
Which all too much I have bestowed on thee.  
But if thou linger in my territories  
Longer than swiftest expedition  
Will give thee time to leave our royal court,  
By heaven! my wrath shall far exceed the love  
I ever bore my daughter or thyself  
Be gone! I will not hear thy vain excuse;  
But, as thou lov'st thy life, make speed from  
hence

[Exit

*Val.* And why not death rather than living  
torment?

To die is to be banish'd from myself,  
And Silvia is myself banish'd from her  
Is self from self, a deadly banishment!  
What light is light, if Silvia be not seen?  
What joy is joy, if Silvia be not by?  
Unless it be to think that she is by  
And feed upon the shadow of perfection. •

Except I be by Silvia in the night,  
 There is no music in the nightingale ;  
 Unless I look on Silvia in the day,  
 There is no day for me to look upon.  
 She is my essence, and I leave to be,  
 If I be not by her fair influence  
 Foster'd, illumined, cherish'd, kept alive.  
 I fly not death, to fly his deadly doom .  
 Tarry I here, I but attend on death ,  
 But, fly I hence, I fly away from life.

*Enter* PROTEUS *and* LAUNCE

*Pro* Run, boy , run, run, and seek him out.

*Launce* Soho ! soho !

*Pro* What seest thou ?

*Launce* Him we go to find . there's not a  
 hair on's head but 't is a Valentine.

*Pro* Valentine ?

*Val* No

*Pro* Who then ? his spirit ?

*Val.* Neither.

*Pro.* What then ?

*Val* Nothing

*Launce* Can nothing speak ? Master, shall I  
 strike ?

*Pro* Who would'st thou strike ?'

*Launce* Nothing

*Pro.* Villain, forbear

*Launce.* Why sir, I'll strike nothing : I pray  
 you—

*Pro* Sirrah, I say, forbear. Friend Valentine,  
 a word.

*Val.* My ears are stopp'd and cannot hear

good news,

So much of bad already hath possess'd them.

*Pro.* Then in dumb silence will I bury mine.  
For they are harsh, untuneable and bad.

*Val.* Is Silvia dead?

*Pro.* No, Valentine

*Val.* No Valentine, indeed, for sacred Silvia!  
Hath she forsworn me?

*Pro.* No, Valentine

*Val.* No Valentine, if Silvia have forsworn  
me!

What is your news?

*Launce* Sir, there is a proclamation that you  
are vanished.

*Pro.* That thou art banished O that's the  
news!

From hence, from Silvia, and from me thy  
friend

*Val.* O! I have fed upon this woe already,  
And now excess of it will make me surfeit  
Doth Silvia know that I am banished?

*Pro.* Ay, ay, and she hath offer'd to the  
doom—

Which, unreversed, stands in effectual force—  
A sea of melting pearl, which some call tears  
Those at her father's churlish feet she tender'd,  
With them, upon her knees, her humble self,  
Wringing her hands, whose whiteness so became  
them

As if but now they waxed pale for woe.

But neither bended knees, pure hands held up,  
Sad sighs, deep groans, nor silver-shedding tears,  
Could penetrate her uncompassionate sire;



But Valentine, if he be ta'en, must die.  
 Besides, her intercession chafed him so,  
 When she for thy repeal was suppliant,  
 That to close prison he commanded her,  
 With many bitter threats of bidding there.

*Val* No more, unless the next word that  
 thou speak'st

Have some malignant power upon my life:  
 If so, I pray thee, breathe it in mine ear,  
 As ending anthem of my endless dolour.

*Pro* Cease to lament for that thou canst not  
 help,

And study help for that which thou lament'st.  
 Time is the nurse and breeder of all good.  
 Here if thou stay, thou canst not see thy love;  
 Besides, thy staying will abridge thy life.  
 Hope is a lover's staff, walk hence with that  
 And manage it against despairing thoughts.  
 Thy letters may be here, though thou art hence;  
 Which, being writ to me, shall be deliver'd  
 Even in the milk-white bosom of thy love.  
 The time now serves not to expostulate.  
 Come, I'll convey thee through the city-gate,  
 And, ere I part with thee, confer at large  
 Of all that may concern thy love-affairs.  
 As thou lov'st Silvia, though not for thyself,  
 Regard thy danger, and along with me!

*Val* I pray thee, Launce, an if thou seest  
 my boy,  
 Bid him make haste and meet me at the North-  
 gate.

*Pro* Go, sirrah, find him out. Come, Valentine.

*Val* O my dear Silvia! hapless Valentine!

[*Exeunt VALENTINE and PROTEUS.*]

*Launce.* I am but a fool, look you, and yet I have the wit to think my master is a kind of a knave, but that's all one, if he be but one knave. He lives not now that knows me to be in love. yet I am in love, but a team of horse shall not pluck that from me, nor who 'tis I love, and yet 'tis a woman but what woman, I will not tell myself, and yet 'tis a milkmaid; yet 'tis not a maid, for she hath had gossips; yet 'tis a maid, for she is her master's maid, and serves for wages. She hath more qualities than a water-spaniel, which is much in a bare Christian.

[*Pulling out a paper.*

Here is the cate-log of her condition *Inprimis*, *She can fetch and carry* Why, a horse can do no more nay, a horse cannot fetch, but only carry; therefore is she better than a jade *Item*, *She can milk*, look you, a sweet virtue in a maid with clean hands

*Enter SPEED*

*Speed* How now, Signior Launce! what news with your mastership?

*Launce* With my master's ship? why, it is at sea

*Speed* Well, your old vice still, mistake the word What news, then, in your paper?

*Launce.* The blackest news that ever thou heardest

*Speed* Why, man, how black?

*Launce* Why, as black as ink.

*Speed.* Let me read them.

*Launce* Fie on thee, jolt-head! thou canst not read

*Speed* Thou liest, I can

*Launce* I will try thee      Tell me this: who begot thee?

*Speed.* Marry, the son of my grandfather.

*Launce* O illiterate loiterer! it was the son of thy grandmother      This proves that thou canst not read

*Speed* Come, fool, come try me in thy paper.

*Launce* There, and St Nicholas be thy speed!

*Speed* *Imprimis, She can milk*

*Launce* Ay, that she can

*Speed* *Item, She brews good ale.*

*Launce* And thereof comes the proverb: 'Blessing of your heart, you brew good ale.'

*Speed* *Item, She can sew.*

*Launce* That's as much as to say, Can she so?

*Speed* *Item, She can knit*

*Launce* What need a man care for a stock with a wench, when she can knit him a stock?

*Speed.* *Item, She can wash and scour*

*Launce* A special virtue, for then she need not be washed and scoured

*Speed* *Item, She can spin*

*Launce* Then may I set the world on wheels, when she can spin for her living

*Speed* *Item, She hath many nameless virtues.*

*Launce.* That's as much as to say, bastard virtues; that, indeed, know not their fathers, and therefore have no names.

*Speed.* *Here follow her vices.*

*Launce.* Close at the heels of her virtues.

Speed. *Item, She is not to be kissed fasting, in respect of her breath*

Launce. Well, that fault may be mended with a breakfast Read on

Speed *Item, She hath a sweet mouth*

Launce That makes amends for hersour breath.

Speed. *Item, She doth talk in her sleep*

Launce It's no matter for that, so she sleep not in her talk

Speed. *Item, She is slow in words*

Launce O villain, that set this down among her vices ! To be slow in words is a woman's only virtue I pray thee, out with't, and place it for her chief virtue.

Speed *Item, she is proud*

Launce Out with that too, it was Eve's legacy, and cannot be ta'en from her

Speed *Item, She hath no teeth*

Launce I care not for that neither, because I love crusts

Speed *Item, She is curst*

Launce. Well, the best is, she hath no teeth to bite.

Speed. *Item, She will often praise her liquor.*

Launce If her liquor be good, she shall : if she will not, I will ; for good things should be praised.

Speed *Item, She is too liberal*

Launce Of her tongue she cannot, for that's writ down she is slow of, of her purse she shall not, for that I'll keep shut, now, of another thing she may, and that cannot I help. Well, proceed.

*Speed* *Item, She hath more hair than wit, and more faults than hairs, and more wealth than faults*

*Launce* Stop there ; I'll have her : she was mine, and not mine, twice or thrice in that last article Rehearse that once more

*Speed* *Item, She hath more hair than wit,—*

*Launce* More hair than wit ? it may be ; I'll prove it the cover of the salt hides the salt, and therefore it is more than the salt the hair that covers the wit is more than the wit, for the greater hides the less What's next ?

*Speed* *And more faults than hairs,—*

*Launce* That's monstrous ! O ! that that were out

*Speed.* *And more wealth than faults,—*

*Launce* Why, that word makes the faults gracious Well, I'll have her ; and if it be a match, as nothing is impossible,—

*Speed* What then ?

*Launce.* Why, then will I tell thee,—that thy master stays for thee at the North-gate.

*Speed* For me ?

*Launce* For thee ! ay ; who art thou ? he hath stayed for a better man than thee.

*Speed* And must I go to him ?

*Launce* Thou must run to him, for thou hast stayed so long that going will scarce serve the turn.

*Speed* Why didst not tell me sooner ? pox of your love-letters !

[Exit.]

*Launce.* Now will he be swunged for reading my letter, an unmannerly slave, that will thrust

SC 1 ] TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. 61

himself into secrets! I'll after, to rejoice in  
the boy's correction [Exit.

SCENE II. *The Same An Apartment in the  
DUKE'S Palace*

*Enter DUKE and THURIO*

*Duke* Sir Thurio, fear not but that she will  
love you,

Now Valentine is banish'd from her sight

*Thu* Since his exile she hath despised me  
most,

Forsworn my company and rail'd at me,  
That I am desperate of obtaining her

*Duke* This weak impress of love is as a figure  
Trenched in ice, with which an hour's heat  
Dissolves to water and doth lose his form  
A little time will melt her frozen thoughts,  
And worthless Valentine shall be forgot.

[Enter PROTEUS.

How now, Sir Proteus! Is your countryman,  
According to our proclamation, gone?

*Pro.* Gone, my good lord

*Duke.* My daughter takes his going grievously.

*Pro* A little time, my lord, will kill that grief.

*Duke* So I believe, but Thurio thinks not so.  
Proteus, the good conceit I hold of thee,  
For thou hast shown some sign of good desert,  
Makes me the better to confer with thee.

*Pro.* Longer than I prove loyal to your grace  
Let me not live to look upon your grace

*Duke.* Thou know'st how willingly I would  
effect

62 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT III.

The match between Sir Thurio and my daughter.

*Pro.* I do, my lord

*Duke* And also, I think, thou art not ignorant  
How she opposes her against my will.

*Pro.* She did, my lord, when Valentine was  
here.

*Duke* Ay, and perversely she perseveres so.  
What might we do to make the girl forget  
The love of Valentine, and love Sir Thurio?

*Pro* The best way is to slander Valentine  
With falsehood, cowardice and poor descent,  
Three things that women highly hold in hate.

*Duke* Ay, but she'll think that it is spoke in  
late.

*Pro.* Ay, if his enemy deliver it.  
Therefore it must with circumstance be spoken  
By one whom she esteemeth as his friend

*Duke.* Then you must undertake to slander  
him

*Pro* And that, my lord, I shall be loth to do:  
'Tis an ill office for a gentleman,  
Especially against his very friend

*Duke.* Where your good word cannot advantage  
him,  
Your slander never can endamage him;  
Therefore the office is indifferent,  
Being entreated to it by your friend.

*Pro* You have prevailed, my lord. If I can  
do it

By aught that I can speak in his dispraise,  
She shall not long continue love to him.  
But say this weed her love from Valentine,  
It follows not that she will love Sir Thurio.

*Thu.* Therefore, as you unwind her love from him,

Lest it should ravel and be good to none,  
You must provide to bottom it on me ;  
Which must be done by praising me as much  
As you in worth dispraise Sir Valentine

*Duke* And, Proteus, we dare trust you in this kind,

Because we know, on Valentine's report,  
You are already Love's firm votary  
And cannot soon revolt and change your mind  
Upon this warrant shall you have access  
Where you with Silvia may confer at large,  
For she is lumpish, heavv, melancholy,  
And, for your friend's sake, will be glad of you,  
Where you may temper her by your persuasion  
To hate young Valentine and love my friend.

*Pro.* As much as I can do I will effect  
But you, Sir Thurio, are not sharp enough,  
You must lay lime to tangle her desires  
By wailful sonnets, whose composed rhymes  
Should be full-fraught with serviceable vows.

*Duke.* Ay,

Much is the force of heaven-bred poesy.

*Pro* Say that upon the altar of her beauty  
You sacrifice your tears, your sighs, your heart.  
Write till your ink be dry, and with your tears  
Moist it again, and frame some feeling line  
That may discover such integrity  
For Orpheus' lute was strung with poets' sinews,  
Whose golden touch could soften steel and stones,  
Make tigers tame and huge leviathans  
Forsake unsounded deeps to dance on sands.



64 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT IV.

After your dire-lamenting elegies,  
Visit by night your lady's chamber-window  
With some sweet concert. to their instruments  
Tune a deploing dump, the night's dead silence  
Will well become such sweet-complaining griev-  
ance

This, or else nothing, will inherit hei

*Duke.* This discipline shows thou hast been in  
love

*Thu* And thy advice this night I'll put in  
practice

Therefore, sweet Proteus, my direction-giver,

Let us into the city presently

To sort some gentlemen well skill'd in music.

I have a sonnet that will serve the turn

To give the onset to thy good advice

*Duke* About it, gentlemen!

*Pro* We'll wait upon your grace till after  
supper,

And afterward determine our proceedings.

*Duke.* Even now about it! I will pardon you.  
[*Exeunt.*

ACT IV.

SCENE I. A Forest, between Milan and Verona.

*Enter certain Outlaws.*

*First Out* Fellows, stand fast, I see a passenger.

*Second Out* If there be ten, shrink not, but  
down with 'em

*Enter VALENTINE and SPEED.*

*Thyrd Out* Stand, sir, and throw us that you

have about ye ;  
 If not, we will make you sit, and rifle you.  
*Speed* Sir, we are undone, these are the  
 Villains

That all the travellers do fear so much

*Val* My friends,—

*First Out* That's not so, sir we are your  
 enemies

*Second Out.* Peace! we'll hear him

*Third Out* Ay, by my beard, will we, for he's  
 a proper man

*Val* Then know that I have little wealth to  
 lose

A man I am cross'd with adversity,  
 My riches are these poor habiliments,  
 Of which if you should here disfigure me,  
 You take the sum and substance that I have.

*Second Out* Whither travel you?

*Val* To Verona

*First Out* Whence came you?

*Val* From Milan

*Third Out* Have you long sojourned there?

*Val.* Some sixteen months, and longer might  
 have stay'd,

If crooked fortune had not thwarted me

*First Out* What! were you banish'd thence?

*Val.* I was

*Second Out* For what offence?

*Val* For that which now torments me to  
 rehearse.

I kill'd a man, whose death I much repent ;  
 But yet I slew him manfully in fight,  
 Without false vantage or base treachery. .

66 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT IV.

*First Out* Why, ne'er repent it, if it were  
done so

But were you banish'd for so small a fault?

*Val.* I was, and held me glad of such a doom.

*Second Out.* Have you the tongues?

*Val* My youthful travel therein made me  
happy,

Or else I often had been miserable

*Third Out* By the bare scalp of Robin Hood's  
fat friar,

This fellow were a king for our wild faction!

*First Out* We'll have him   Sirs, a word.

*Speed* Master, be one of them   it's an  
honourable kind of thievery.

*Val.* Peace, villain!

*Second Out* Tell us this   have you any thing  
to take to?

*Val* Nothing but my fortune.

*Third Out* Know then, that some of us are  
gentlemen,

Such as the fury of ungovern'd youth

Thrust from the company of awful men:

Myself was from Verona banished

For practising to steal away a lady,

An heir, and near allied unto the duke.

*Second Out.* And I from Mantua, for a gentle-  
man,

Who, in my mood, I stabb'd unto the heart.

*First Out* And I for such like petty crimes  
as these.

But to the purpose; for we cite our faults,

That they may hold excused our lawless lives;

And partly, seeing you are beautified

SC. 1.] TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. 67

With goodly shape, and by your own report  
A linguist and a man of such perfection  
As we do in our quality much want—

*Second Out.* Indeed, because you are a banish'd  
man,

Therefore, above the rest, we parley to you.  
Are you content to be our general?  
To make a virtue of necessity  
And live, as we do, in this wilderness?

*Third Out.* What say'st thou? wilt thou be of  
our consort?

Say 'ay,' and be the captain of us all  
We'll do thee homage and be ruled by thee,  
Love thee as our commander and our king

*First Out* But if thou scorn our courtesy,  
thou diest

*Second Out* Thou shalt not live to brag what  
we have offer'd.

*Val.* I take your offer and will live with you,  
Provided that you do no outrages  
On silly women or poor passengers

*Third Out* No, we detest such vile, base  
practices.

Come, go with us. we'll bring thee to our crews,  
And show thee all the treasure we have got,  
Which, with ourselves, all rest at thy dispose.

[*Eccunt.*

SCENE II. Milan. Outside the DUKE'S Palace,  
under SILVIA'S chamber.

*Enter* PROTEUS

*Pro.* Already have I been false to Valentine,  
And now I must be as unjust to Thurio.

68 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT IV.

Under the colour of commending him,  
 I have access my own love to prefer,  
 But Silvia is too fair, too true, too holy,  
 To be corrupted with my worthless gifts.  
 When I protest true loyalty to her,  
 She twits me with my falsehood to my friend;  
 When to her beauty I commend my vows,  
 She bids me think how I have been forsworn  
 In breaking faith with Julia whom I loved.  
 And notwithstanding all her sudden quips,  
 The least whereof would quell a lover's hope,  
 Yet, spaniel like, the more she spurns my love,  
 The more it grows and fawneth on her still.  
 But here comes Thurio now must we to her  
 window,  
 And give some evening music to her ear

*Enter THURIO and Musicians*

*Thu* How now, Sir Proteus! are you crept  
 before us?

*Pro* Ay, gentle Thurio, for you know that  
 love

Will creep in service where it cannot go

*Thu* Ay; but I hope, sir, that you love not  
 here.

*Pro* Sir, but I do, or else I would be hence.

*Thu* Who? Silvia?

*Pro* Ay, Silvia, for your sake.

*Thu* I thank you for your own. Now,  
 gentlemen,

Let's tune, and to it lustily awhile.

*Enter Host and JULIA, behind; JULIA in  
 boy's clothes.*

*Host.* Now, my young guest, methinks you're  
alloycholly I pray you, why is it?

*Jul.* Marry, mine host, because I cannot be  
merry

*Host.* Come, we'll have you merry. I'll  
bring you where you shall hear music and see  
the gentleman that you asked for

*Jul.* But shall I hear him speak?

*Host.* Ay, that you shall.

*Jul.* That will be music [Music plays.

*Host.* Hark! hark!

*Jul.* Is he among these?

*Host.* Ay, but peace! let's hear 'em.

SONG

*Who is Silvia? what is she,  
That all our swains commend her?  
Holy, fair and wise is she,  
The heaven such grace did lend her,  
That she might admired be  
Is she kind as she is fair?  
For beauty lives with kindness:  
Love doth to her eyes repair,  
To help him of his blindness;  
And, being help'd, inhabits there.  
Then to Silvia let us sing,  
That Silvia is excelling;  
She excels each mortal thing  
Upon the dull earth dwelling;  
To her let us garlands bring*

*Host.* How now! are you sadder than you  
were before? How do you, man? the music  
likes you not.

70 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT IV.

*Jul* You mistake; the musician likes me not.

*Host* Why, my pretty youth?

*Jul* He plays false, father

*Host* How? out of tune on the strings? ..

*Jul* Not so, but yet so false that he grieves my very heart stings

*Host* You have a quick ear

*Jul* Ay, I would I were deaf, it makes me have a slow heart

*Host* I perceive you delight not in music.

*Jul* Not a whit, when it jars so

*Host* Hark! what fine change is in the music.

*Jul* Ay, that change is the spite

*Host* You would have them always play but one thing?

*Jul* I would always have one play but one thing

But, host, doth this Sir Proteus that we talk on Often resort unto this gentlewoman?

*Host* I tell you what Launce, his man, told me he loved her out of all nick.

*Jul* Where is Launce?

*Host* Gone to seek his dog; which to-morrow, by his master's command, he must carry for a present to his lady.

*Jul* Peace! stand aside the company parts.

*Pro* Sir Thurio, fear not you I will so plead That you shall say my cunning drift excels.

*Thu.* Where meet we?

*Pro* At Saint Gregory's well.

*Thu* Farewell.

[*Exeunt* THURIO and Musicians.

*Enter SILVIA above, at her window.*

*Pro.* Madam, good even to your ladyship.

*Sil.* I thank you for your music, gentlemen  
Who is that that spake?

*Pro.* One, lady, if you knew his pure heart's  
truth,  
You would quickly learn to know him by his  
voice.

*Sil.* Sir Proteus, as I take it

*Pro.* Sir Proteus, gentle lady, and your servant.

*Sil.* What's your will?

*Pro.* That I may compass yours.

*Sil.* You have your wish, my will is even  
this:

That presently you hie you home to bed.  
Thou subtle, perjured, false, disloyal man!  
Think'st thou I am so shallow, so conceitless,  
To be seduced by thy flattery,  
That hast deceived so many with thy vows?  
Return, return, and make thy love amends.  
For me, by this pale queen of night I swear,  
I am so far from granting thy request  
That I despise thee for thy wrongful suit,  
And by and by intend to chide myself  
Even for this time I spend in talking to thee

*Pro.* I grant, sweet love, that I did love a lady;  
But she is dead

*Jul.* [*Aside*] 'T were false, if I should speak it;  
For I am sure she is not buried.

*Sil.* Say that she be, yet Valentine thy friend  
Survives; to whom, thyself art witness,  
I am betrothed; and art thou not ashamed  
To wrong him with thy importunacy?



72 *TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA*. [ACT IV.]

*Pro.* I likewise hear that Valentine is dead.

*Sil.* And so suppose am I ; for in his grave  
Assure thyself my love is buried

*Pro.* Sweet lady, let me take it from the earth.

*Sil.* Go to thy lady's grave and call hers thence ;  
Or, at the least, in hers sepulchre thine.

*Jul.* [*Aside*] He heard not that

*Pro.* Madam, if your heart be so obdurate,  
Vouchsafe me yet your picture for my love,  
The picture that is hanging in your chamber :  
To that I'll speak, to that I'll sigh and weep ;  
For since the substance of your perfect self  
Is else devoted, I am but a shadow,  
And to your shadow will I make true love

*Jul.* [*Aside*] If 't were a substance, you would,  
sure, deceive it,  
And make it but a shadow, as I am.

*Sil.* I am very loth to be your idol, sir ;  
But since your falsehood shall become you well  
To worship shadows and adore false shapes,  
Send to me in the morning and I'll send it.  
And so, good rest

*Pro.* As wretches have o'ernight  
That wait for execution in the morn

[*Exeunt* PROTEUS and SILVIA, severally.]

*Jul.* Host, will you go ?

*Host.* By my halidom, I was fast asleep.

*Jul.* Pray you, where lies Sir Proteus ?

*Host.* Marry, at my house Trust me, I think  
't is almost day

*Jul.* Not so ; but it hath been the longest night  
That e'er I watch'd, and the most heaviest.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III. *The Same.*

*Enter EGLAMOUR*

*Egl.* This is the hour that Madam Silvia  
Entreated me to call and know her mind  
There's some great matter she'd employ me in.  
Madam, madam!

*Enter SILVIA above, at her window*

*Sil.* Who calls?

*Egl.* Your servant and your friend,  
One that attends your ladyship's command

*Sil.* Sir Eglamour, a thousand times good  
morrow

*Egl.* As many, worthy lady, to yourself  
According to your ladyship's unpose,  
I am thus early come to know what service  
It is your pleasure to command me in

*Sil.* O Eglamour, thou art a gentleman,  
Think not I flatter, for I swear I do not,  
Valiant, wise, remorseful, well accomplish'd.  
Thou art not ignorant what dear good will  
I bear unto the banish'd Valentine  
Nor how my father would enforce me marry  
Vain Thurio, whom my very soul abhors  
Thyself hast loved, and I have heard thee say  
No grief did ever come so near thy heart  
As when thy lady and thy true love died,  
Upon whose grave thou vow'dst pure chastity.  
Sir Eglamour, I would to Valentine,  
To Mantua, where I hear he makes abode;  
And, for the ways are dangerous to pass,  
I do desire thy worthy company,

74 *TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA.* [ACT IV.

Upon whose faith and honour I repose  
 Urge not my father's anger, Eglamour,  
 But think upon my grief, a lady's grief,  
 And on the justice of my flying hence,  
 To keep me from a most unholy match,  
 Which heaven and fortune still rewards with  
 plagues

I do desire thee, even from a heart  
 As full of sorrows as the sea of sands,  
 To bear me company and go with me:  
 If not, to hide what I have said to thee,  
 That I may venture to depart alone

*Egl* Madam, I pity much your grievances;  
 Which since I know they virtuously are placed,  
 I give consent to go along with you,  
 Recking as little what betideth me  
 As much I wish all good befortune you.  
 When will you go?

*Sil* This evening coming.

*Egl* Where shall I meet you?

*Sil* At Friar Patrick's cell,  
 Where I intend holy confession

*Egl* I will not fail your ladyship.  
 Good morrow, gentle lady

*Sil.* Good morrow, kind Sir Eglamour.

*[Exeunt severally.]*

SCENE IV. *The Same*

*Enter LAUNCE, with his Dog.*

*Launce* When a man's servant shall play  
 the cur with him, look you, it goes hard: one  
 that I brought up of a puppy; one that I saved

from drowning, when three or four of his blind brothers and sisters went to it. I have taught him, even as one would say precisely, 'thus I would teach a dog' I was sent to deliver him as a present to Mistress Silvia from my master, and I came no sooner into the dining-chamber but he steps me to her trencher and steals her capon's leg. O! 'tis a foul thing when a cur cannot keep himself in all companies. I would have, as one should say, one that takes upon him to be a dog indeed, to be, as it were, a dog at all things. If I had not had more wit than he, to take a fault upon me that he did, I think verily he had been hanged for't sure as I live, he had suffered for't. you shall judge. He thrusts me himself into the company of three or four gentlemanlike dogs under the duke's table. he had not been there—bless the mark—a passing while, but all the chamber smelt him. 'Out with the dog!' says one; 'what cur is that?' says another, 'whip him out,' says the third; 'hang him up,' says the duke. I, having been acquainted with the smell before, knew it was Crab, and goes me to the fellow that whips the dogs. 'Friend,' quoth I, 'you mean to whip the dog?' 'Ay, marry, do I,' quoth he. 'You do him the more wrong,' quoth I, 't'was I did the thing you wot of.' He makes me no more ado, but whips me out of the chamber. How many masters would do this for his servant? Nay, I'll be sworn, I have sat in the stocks for puddings he hath stolen, otherwise he had been executed; I have stood on the pillory for geese

he hath killed, otherwise he had suffered for't; thou thinkest not of this now. Nay, I remember the trick you served me when I took my leave of Madam Silvia. Did not I bid thee still mark me and do as I do? When didst thou see me heave up my leg and make water against a gentlewoman's farthingale? Didst thou ever see me do such a trick?

*Enter PROTEUS and JULIA.*

*Pro* Sebastian is thy name? I like thee well And will employ thee in some service presently.

*Jul.* In what you please I will do what I can.

*Pro.* I hope thou wilt. [*To LAUNCE*] How now, you whoreson peasant! Where have you been these two days loitering?

*Launce* Marry, sir, I carried Mistress Silvia the dog you bade me.

*Pro.* And what says she to my little jewel?

*Launce.* Marry, she says your dog was a cur, and tells you currish thanks is good enough for such a present.

*Pro* But she received my dog?

*Launce* No, indeed, did she not. Here have I brought him back again.

*Pro.* What! didst thou offer her this from me?

*Launce* Ay, sir, the other squirrel was stolen from me by the hangman boys in the market-place; and then I offered her mine own, who is a dog as big as ten of yours, and therefore the gift the greater.

*Pro.* Go get thee hence, and find my dog

again,

Or ne'er return again into my sight  
 Away, I say! stay'st thou to vex me here?  
 A slave that still an end turns me to shame

[Exit LAUNCE.

Sebastian, I have entertained thee,  
 Partly that I have need of such a youth  
 That can with some discretion do my business,  
 For 't is no trusting to yond foolish lout,  
 But chiefly for thy face and thy behaviour,  
 Which, if my augury deceive me not,  
 Witness good bringing up, fortune, and truth:  
 Therefore know thou, for this I entertain thee.  
 Go presently and take this ring with thee.  
 Deliver it to Madam Silvia

She loved me well delivered it to me

*Jul.* It seems you loved not her, to leave  
 her token

She's dead, belike?

*Pro.* Not so, I think she lives.

*Jul.* Alas!

*Pro.* Why dost thou cry 'alas'?

*Jul.* I cannot choose

But pity her.

*Pro.* Wherefore should'st thou pity her?

*Jul.* Because methinks that she loved you  
 as well

As you do love your lady Silvia

She dreams on him that has forgot her love,  
 You dote on her that cares not for your love.

'T is pity love should be so contrary,  
 And thinking on it makes me cry 'alas!'

*Pro.* Well, gave her that ring and therewithal

78 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT IV.]

This letter that's her chamber Tell my lady,  
I claim the promise for her heavenly picture.  
Your message done, hie home unto my chamber,  
Where thou shalt find me, sad and solitary [*Exit.*]

*Jul.* How many women would do such a  
message?

Alas, poor Proteus! thou hast entertain'd  
A fox to be the shepherd of thy lambs.  
Alas, poor fool! why do I pity him  
That with his very heart despiseth me?  
Because he loves her, he despiseth me,  
Because I love him, I must pity him.  
This ring I gave him when he parted from me,  
To bind him to remember my good will;  
And now am I, unhappy messenger,  
To plead for that which I would not obtain,  
To carry that which I would have refused,  
To praise his faith which I would have dis-  
praised

I am my master's true-confirmed love,  
But cannot be true servant to my master,  
Unless I prove false traitor to myself  
Yet will I woo for him; but yet so coldly  
As, heaven it knows, I would not have him  
speed

*Enter SILVIA, attended.*

Gentlewoman, good day! I pray you, be my  
mean

To bring me where to speak with Madam Silvia.

*Sil.* What would you with her, if that I  
be she?

*Jul.* If you be she, I do entreat your patience  
To hear me speak the message I am sent on.

*Sal* From whom?

*Jul* From my master, Sir Proteus, madam.

*Sil* O! he sends you for a picture

*Jul* Ay, madam

*Sil* Ursula, bring my picture there

Go give your master this tell him, from me,  
One Julia, that his changing thoughts forget,  
Would better sit his chamber than this shadow

*Jul* Madam, please you peruse this letter.—  
Pardon me, madam, I have unadvised  
Delivered you a paper that I should not.  
This is the letter to your ladyship

*Sil* I pray thee, let me look on that again

*Jul* It may not be good madam, pardon me

*Sil* There, hold!

I will not look upon your master's lines  
I know they are stuff'd with protestations  
And full of new-found oaths, which he will  
break

As easily as I do tear his paper.

*Jul* Madam, he sends your ladyship this ring.

*Sil* The more shame for him that he sends  
it me,

For I have heard him say a thousand times  
His Julia gave it him at his departure  
Though his false finger have profaned the ring,  
Mine shall not do his Julia so much wrong

*Jul* She thanks you

*Sil* What say'st thou?

*Jul* I thank you, madam, that you tender her  
Poor gentlewoman! my master wrongs her much

*Sil* Dost thou know her?

*Jul* Almost as well as I do know myself:



To think upon her woes I do protest  
That I have wept a hundred several times.

*Sil* Belike she thinks that Proteus hath for-  
sook her

*Jul* I think she doth, and that's her cause  
of sorrow

*Sil* Is she not passing fair?

*Jul* She hath been fairer, madam, than she is.  
When she did think my master loved her well,  
She, in my judgment, was as fair as you,  
But since she did neglect her looking-glass  
And threw her sun-exPELLING mask away,  
The air hath starved the roses in her cheeks  
And pinched the lily-tincture of her face,  
That now she is become as black as I

*Sil* How tall was she?

*Jul* About my stature, for at Pentecost,  
When all our pageants of delight were played,  
Our youth got me to play the woman's part,  
And I was trimm'd in Madam Julia's gown,  
Which served me as fit, by all men's judgments,  
As if the garment had been made for me.  
Therefore I know she is about my height.  
And at that time I made her weep agood,  
For I did play a lamentable part  
Madam, 't was Annadine passioning  
For Theseus' perjury and unjust flight;  
Which I so lively acted with my tears  
That my poor mistress, moved therewithal,  
Wept bitterly, and would I might be dead  
If I in thought felt not her very sorrow!

*Sil* She is beholding to thee, gentle youth.  
Alas! poor lady, desolate and left,

I weep myself to think upon thy words —  
 Here, youth, there is my purse I give thee this  
 For thy sweet mistress' sake, because thou lov'st  
 her

Farewell

[Exit, attended.]

Jul. And she shall thank you for't, if e'er  
 you know her

A virtuous gentlewoman, mild and beautiful!  
 I hope my master's suit will be but cold,  
 Since she respects my mistress' love so much.  
 Alas! how love can trifle with itself  
 Here is her picture let me see, I think,  
 If I had such a tire, this face of mine  
 Were full as lovely as is this of hers,  
 And yet the painter flatter'd her a little,  
 Unless I flatter with myself too much  
 Her hair is auburn, mine is perfect yellow:  
 If that be all the difference in his love  
 I'll get me such a colour'd periwig  
 Her eyes are grey as glass, and so are mine.  
 Ay, but her forehead's low, and mine's as high.  
 What should it be that he respects in her  
 But I can make respect in myself,  
 If this fond Love were not a blinded god?  
 Come, shadow, come, and take this shadow up,  
 For 'tis thy rival O thou senseless form!  
 Thou shalt be worshipp'd, kiss'd, loved and adored,  
 And, were there sense in his idolatry,  
 My substance should be statue in thy stead.  
 I'll use thee kindly for thy mistress' sake,  
 That used me so, or else, by Jove I vow,  
 I should have scratch'd out your unseeing eyes,  
 To make my master out of love with thee [Exit.]

82 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT V.]

- 11

ACT V.

SCENE I *Milan. An Abbey*

*Enter EGLAMOUR*

*Egl* The sun begins to gild the western sky,  
And now it is about the very hour  
That Silvia at Friar Patrick's cell should meet me  
She will not fail, for lovers break not hours,  
Unless it be to come before their time,  
So much they spur their expedition.  
See where she comes [*Enter SILVIA*] Lady,  
a happy evening!

*Sil* Amen, amen! go on, good Eglamour,  
Out at the postern by the abbey-wall.  
I fear I am attended by some spies.

*Egl* Fear not the forest is not three leagues  
off,  
If we recover that, we are sure enough  
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II. *The Same A Room in the  
DUKE'S Palace.*

*Enter THURIO, PROTEUS, and JULIA.*

*Thu.* Sir Proteus, what says Silvia to my suit?

*Pro* O, sir, I find her milder than she was;  
And yet she takes exceptions at your person.

*Thu* What! that my leg is too long?

*Pro.* No, that it is too little.

*Thu* I'll wear a boot to make it somewhat  
rounder

*Jul* [*Aside*] But love will not be spur'd to  
what it loathes

*Thu.* What says she to my face?

*Pro.* She says it is a fair one

*Thu.* Nay then, the wanton lies;  
is black.

*Pro.* But pearls are fair! and the old saying is,  
Black men are pearls in beauteous ladies' eyes!

*Jul.* [*Aside*] 'Tis true, such pearls as put out  
ladies' eyes,

For I had rather wink than look on them.

*Thu.* How likes she my discourse?

*Pro.* Ill, when you talk of war

*Thu.* But well, when I discourse of love and  
peace?

*Jul.* [*Aside*] But better, indeed, when you  
hold your peace

*Thu.* What says she to my valour?

*Pro.* O, sir, she makes no doubt of that.

*Jul.* [*Aside*] She needs not, when she knows  
it cowardice

*Thu.* What says she to my birth?

*Pro.* That you are well derived

*Jul.* [*Aside*] True, from a gentleman to a fool.

*Thu.* Considers she my possessions?

*Pro.* O, ay, and pities them

*Thu.* Wherefore?

*Jul.* [*Aside*] That such an ass should owe  
them.

*Pro.* That they are out by lease.

*Jul.* Here comes the duke

• Enter DUKE

*Duke.* How now, Sir Proteus! how now,  
Thurio!

Which of you saw Sir Eglamour of late?

84 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT V.]

*Pro* Not I.

*Pro* Nor I.

*Duke* Saw you my daughter?

*Pro* Neither.

*Duke* Why then,

She's fled unto that peasant Valentine,  
And Eglamour is in her company  
'Tis true, for Friar Laurence met them both,  
As he in penance wander'd through the forest;  
Him he knew well, and guess'd that it was she,  
But, being mask'd, he was not sure of it,  
Besides, she did intend confession  
At Patrick's cell this even, and there she was not.  
These likelihoods confirm her flight from hence.  
Therefore, I pray you, stand not to discourse,  
But mount you presently and meet with me  
Upon the rising of the mountain-foot,  
That leads toward Mantua, whither they are fled.  
Dispatch, sweet gentlemen, and follow me. [*Exit.*]

*Thu* Why, this it is to be a peevish girl,  
That flies her fortune when it follows her.  
I'll after, more to be revenged on Eglamour  
Than for the love of reckless Silvia [*Exit.*]

*Pro* And I will follow, more for Silvia's love  
Than hate of Eglamour that goes with her [*Exit.*]

*Jul* And I will follow, more to cross that love,  
Than hate for Silvia that is gone for love. [*Exit.*]

SCENE III The Forest

*Enter SILVIA and Outlaws.*

*First Out* Come, come,  
Be patient; we must bring you to our captain.

*Sil* A thousand more mischances than ~~this one~~  
Have learn'd me how to brook this patiently.

*Second Out* Come, bring her away.

*First Out* Where is the gentleman that was  
with her ?

*Third Out* Being nimble-footed, he hath out-  
run us,

But Moyses and Valerius follow him.

Go thou with her to the west end of the wood ;  
There is our captain We'll follow him that's  
fled ,

The thicket is beset ; he cannot 'scape

*First Out* Come, I must bring you to our  
captain's cave

Fear not , he bears an honourable mind,

And will not use a woman lawlessly

*Sil* O Valentine ! thus I endure for thee

[*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV *Another Part of the Forest.*

*Enter VALENTINE*

*Val.* How use doth breed a habit in a man !  
This shadowy desert, unfrequented woods,  
I better brook than flourishing peopled towns.  
Here can I sit alone, unseen of any,  
And to the nightingale's complaining notes  
Tune my distresses and record my woes.  
O thou that dost inhabit in my breast,  
Leave not the mansion so long tenantless,  
Lest, growing ruinous, the building fall  
And leave no memory of what it was !  
Repair me with thy presence, Silvia !  
Thou gentle nymph, cherish thy forlorn swain !

84 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT V.

*Enter* Claudio and what stir is this to-day ?  
 These are my mates, that make their wills their law,

Have some unhappy passenger in chase  
 They love me well, yet I have much to do  
 To keep them from uncivil outrages  
 Withdraw thee, Valentine who's this comes  
 here ? *[Steps aside]*

*Enter* PROTEUS, SILVIA, and JULIA

*Pro* Madam, this service I have done for you,  
 Though you respect not aught your servant doth,  
 To hazard life and rescue you from him  
 That would have forced your honour and your love

Vouchsafe me, for my meed, but one fair look ;  
 A smaller boon than this I cannot beg,  
 And less than this, I am sure, you cannot give.

*Val [Aside]* How like a dream is this I see and hear !

Love, lend me patience to forbear awhile

*Sil* O miserable, unhappy that I am !

*Pro* Unhappy were you, madam, ere I came ;  
 But by my coming I have made you happy.

*Sil* By thy approach thou mak'st me most unhappy

*Jul [Aside]* And me when he approacheth to your presence

*Sil* Had I been seized by a hungry lion,  
 I would have been a breakfast to the beast,  
 Rather than have false Proteus rescue me.  
 O ! heaven be judge how I love Valentine,  
 Whose life's as tender to me as my soul !

And full as much, for more there cannot.

I do detest false perjured Proteus

Therefore be gone, solicit me no more.

*Pro* What dangerous action, stood it next to death,

Would I not undergo for one calm look !

O ! 'tis the curse in love, and still approved,

When women cannot love where they're beloved

*Sil* When Proteus cannot love where he's beloved

- \* Read over Julia's heart, thy first best love,  
For whose dear sake thou didst then rend thy faith  
Into a thousand oaths, and all those oaths  
Descended into perjury, to love me  
Thou hast no faith left now, unless thou 'dst two,  
And that's far worse than none better have none  
Than plural faith which is too much by one  
Thou counterfeit to thy true friend !

*Pro*

In love

Who respects friend ?

*Sil*

All men but Proteus

*Pro*. Nay, if the gentle spirit of moving words  
Can no way change you to a milder form,

I'll woo you like a soldier, at arms' end,

And love you 'gainst the nature of love,—force  
you

*Sil* O heaven !

*Pro* I'll force thee yield to my desire

*Val* Ruffian, let go that rude uncivil touch,  
Thou friend of an ill fashion !

*Pro*

Valentine !

*Val* Thou common friend, that's without  
faith or love,



THE GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT 7.

84 TWO G<sup>ts</sup> <sup>It</sup> is a friend now, treacherous man I,  
 'thou hast beguiled my hopes, nought but mine  
 eye  
 Could have persuaded me Now I dare not say  
 I have one friend alive thou would'st disprove me.  
 Who should be trusted, when one's own right  
 hand

Is perjured to the bosom? Proteus,  
 I am sorry I must never trust thee more,  
 But count the world a stranger for thy sake.  
 The private wound is deepest O time most  
 accurst!

'Mongst all foes that a friend should be the worst!

*Pro* My shame and guilt confounds me.  
 Forgive me, Valentine If hearty sorrow  
 Be a sufficient ransom for offence,  
 I tender't here I do as truly suffer  
 As e'er I did commit

*Val* Then I am paid;  
 And once again I do receive thee honest.  
 Who by repentance is not satisfied  
 Is not of heaven nor earth, for these are pleased.  
 By penitence the Eternal's wrath's appeased;  
 And, that my love may appear plain and free,  
 All that was mine in Silvia I give thee.

*Jul* O me unhappy! [*Swoons.*]

*Pro.* Look to the boy

*Val.* Why, boy! why, wag! how now! what  
 is the matter?

Look up, speak

*Jul* O good sir, my master charg'd me  
 To deliver a ring to Madam Silvia,  
 Which, out of my neglect, was never done.

*Pro* Where is that ring, boy?

*Jul.* Here 't is this is

*Pro.* How! let me see

Why, this is the ring I gave to Julia.

*Jul.* O! cry you mercy, sir, I have mistook.  
This is the ring you sent to Silvia

*Pro* But how cam'st thou by this ring? At  
my depart  
I gave this unto Julia

*Jul* And Julia herself did give it me.  
And Julia herself hath brought it hither

*Pro* How! Julia!

*Jul* Behold her that gave aim to all thy oaths,  
And entertained them deeply in her heart  
How oft hast thou with perjury cleft the root!  
O Proteus! let this habit make thee blush  
Be thou ashamed that I have took upon me  
Such an immodest raiment, if shame live  
In a disguise of love  
It is the lesser blot, modesty finds,  
Women to change their shapes than men their  
minds

*Pro* Than men their minds! 'tis true (O  
heaven! were men  
But constant, he were perfect that one error  
Fills him with faults, makes him run through  
all the sins

Inconstancy falls off ere it begins  
What is in Silvia's face, but I may spy  
More fresh in Julia's with a constant eye?

*Val.* Come, come, a hand from either.  
Let me be blest to make this happy close:  
'T were pity two such friends should be long foes.

90 TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. [ACT V.]

*Pr.* Bear witness, heaven, I have my wish  
for ever.

*Jul.* And I mine

*Enter Outlaws, with DUKE and THURIO.*

*Out.* A prize! a prize! a prize!

*Val.* Forbear, forbear, I say, it is my lord  
the duke

Your grace is welcome to a man disgraced,  
Banished Valentine

*Duke.* Sir Valentine!

*Thu.* Yonder is Silvia, and Silvia's mine.

*Val.* Thurio, give back, or else embrace thy  
death,

Come not within the measure of my wrath;  
Do not name Silvia thine, if once again,  
Verona shall not hold thee. Here she stands,  
Take but possession of her with a touch;  
I dare thee but to breathe upon my love.

*Thu.* Sir Valentine, I care not for her, I.  
I hold him but a fool that will endanger  
His body for a girl that loves him not  
I claim her not, and therefore she is thine

*Duke.* The more degenerate and base art thou,  
To make such means for her as thou hast done,  
And leave her on such slight conditions  
Now, by the honour of my ancestry,  
I do applaud thy spirit, Valentine,  
And think thee worthy of an empress' love.  
Know then, I here forget all former griefs,  
Cancel all grudge, repeal thee home again,  
I plead a new state in thy unrivall'd merit,  
To which I thus subscribe Sir Valentine,  
Thou art a gentleman and well derived,

4.] TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA. 91

Take thou thy Silvia, for thou hast deserved her.

*Val.* I thank your grace, the gift hath made me happy

I now beseech you, for your daughter's sake,  
To grant one boon that I shall ask of you

*Duke* I grant it for thine own, whate'er it be.

*Val* These banish'd men that I have kept  
withal

Are men endued with worthy qualities  
Forgive them what they have committed here,  
And let them be recall'd from their exile  
They are reformed, civil, full of good,  
And fit for great employment, worthy lord

*Duke* Thou hast prevail'd, I pardon them  
and thee

Dispose of them as thou know'st their deserts  
Come, let us go we will include all jars  
With triumphs, mirth and rare solemnity

*Val* And as we walk along, I dare be bold  
With our discourse to make your grace to smile.  
What think you of this page, my lord?

*Duke* I think the boy hath grace in him:  
he blushes

*Val* I warrant you, my lord, more grace  
than boy

*Duke* What mean you by that saying?

*Val* Please you, I'll tell you as we pass along,  
That you will wonder what hath fortun'd  
Come, Proteus, 't is your penance but to hear  
The story of your loves discovered  
That done, our day of marriage shall be yours,  
One feast, one house, one mutual happiness

[*Exeunt.*







